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IN THE

United States Supreme Court

OCTOBER TERM, 1970

No. 1678

VAN C. VOLLMER, and
THE INDIANA INVESTOR AND
BUSINESS NEWS, INC.,

Petitioners,

V.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

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Petitioners pray that a writ of Certiorari issue to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit entered in the case of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. VAN C. VOLLMER, ET AL.* on January 22, 1971, rehearing denied March 29, 1971.

*Appellants in the entitled case other than Van C. Vollmer were Fred G. Amick, Francis L. Broderick, William M. Dowling, K. K. Irving, David R. Mayne, Gilbert E. McQuinn, H. R. Nash, Walter C. Olsen, Leon O. Riggs, Harold L. Wymer, Indiana Investor & Business News, Inc., and Securities Services, Inc. Each appellant's case was separately docketed but consolidated for purposes of filing an appendix and oral argument. K. K. Irving filed his Petition for Writ of Certiorari on February 22, 1971, in the United States Supreme Court; certain other Appellants timely filed petitions for rehearing, respectively; petitions for rehearing of Amick, Broderick, Dowling, Nash, Olsen, Wymer, Van Vollmer, and Indiana Investor and Business News, Inc., was denied March 29, 1971.

REFERENCE TO OPINIONS BELOW

Judgment without opinion of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division, was entered against Petitioner on July 28, 1967, upon verdict of the jury finding Petitioner guilty under Count 26 and 39 of the indictment. The opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit affirming judgment is as yet unreported, and appears in Appendix A, infra., pp. 10-32a. The order of the United States Court of Appeals from the Seventh Circuit denying Petitioner's petition for rehearing on March 29, 1971, is reprinted in Appendix A, p. 34a, and the mandate of the Court of Appeals was stayed for thirty (30) days from April 8, 1971, within which to petition this Court for Certiorari, which is reprinted in Appendix B, p. 35a.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Circuit Court of Appeals was entered on January 22, 1971, reprinted in Appendix A, pp. 1a-33a, petition for rehearing denied March 29, 1971, reprinted in Appendix A, p. 34a. The jurisdiction of the Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. §1254.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Can the United States Government deprive petitioner of his liberty and send him to prison for up to three (3) years for what he printed in his newspaper?

2. Does petitioner have the right to print and publish his newspaper freely without abridgement as guaranteed petitioner by the Ist Amendment to the United States Constitution, or can he be prosecuted and tried as a criminal by the government upon *unfounded* charges (as determined by the jury) that the publication of such newspaper was part of a criminal conspiracy?

3. Does the fear of being charged with participation in a criminal conspiracy in the discussion and gathering of news with others, constitute an abridgement of petitioner's freedom of the press making statutes authorizing such prosecution offensive to the Ist Amendment to the United States Constitution?

4. Can the government of the United States *without notice* to petitioner "change the rules" and deprive petitioner of his life, liberty and happiness in publishing his newspaper, about Indiana companies in Indiana, a purely intrastate activity the pursuit of which is protected and guaranteed petitioner by the IXth, Xth and XIVth Amendments to the United States Constitution, by subjecting petitioner to instant criminal prosecution?

5. Was petitioner deprived of effective counsel, guaranteed him under the VIth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and due process of law guaranteed him under the Vth Amendment to the United States Constitution, by being charged with *conspiracy* under a stock fraud indictment of forty-one (41) counts and commingled in trial with stock salesmen, issuers and others for the sole purpose of getting inadmissible hearsay declarations into evidence which were admitted against petitioner?

6. Are Sections 77q(b) and 77x of Title 15, U. S. C. unconstitutionally vague so as to offend the United States Constitution because such statutes do not adequately advise newspaper publishers, including petitioner, how to determine which advertisements or editorials are lawful, and which are criminal, thereby leaving a standard of guilt to be determined by the variant views of different courts and juries called upon for enforcement.

7. Was petitioner deprived of due process of law in being convicted under Count 26 of an indictment for the sale of stock which the Court of Appeals ("infra., pp. 17a-18a") acknowledged contained no identifiable affirmative misrepresentations?

8. Were exculpatory statements made by petitioner to an officer of the Securities and Exchange Commission assigned to get convictions, without her disclosure to petitioner that indictments were being sought *against petitioner,* in the light of damaging editorials previously written about such officer, amount to such unfairness as to offend the rights guaranteed petitioner under the IVth and Vth Amendments to the United States Constitution?

9. Can petitioner stand *convicted* and Robert S. Chappell

and Investment Corporation of America, whose cooperation and acts were necessary to make out the substantive crimes charged, stand *acquitted* of the identical crimes charged?

10. Was petitioner deprived of due process of Law guaranteed him under the Vth Amendment to the United States Constitution by being tried by a judge, challenged by petitioner as biased for publicly stating prior to trial that petitioner was not innocently relying upon what was told him in printing and publishing in The Indiana Investor, but who refused to recuse himself?

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS, STATUTES AND FEDERAL RULES INVOLVED

1. United States Constitution, Amendment 1.

   "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peacefully to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

2. United States Constitution, Amendment 4.

   "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

3. United States Constitution, Amendment 5.

   "No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment by a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself; nor be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

4. United States Constitution, Amendment 6.

"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state or district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained bv law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense."

5. United States Constitution, Amendment 9.

"The enumeration in the constitution, of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

6. United States Constitution, Amendment 10.

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively or to the people."

7. United States Constitution, Amendment 14, §1.

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

8. 15 U. S. C. §77q(a).

"(a) It shall be unlawful for any person in the offer or sale of any securities by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly —

"(1) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud, or

"(2) to obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading, or

"(3) to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser."

9. 15 U. S. C. §77q(b).

"(b) It Shall be unlawful for any person, by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of the mails, to publish, give publicity to, or circulate any notice, circular, advertisement, newspaper, article, letter, investment service, or communication which, though not purporting to offer a security for sale, described such security for a consideration received or to be received, directly or indirectly, from an issuer, underwriter, or dealer, without fully disclosing the receipt, whether past or prospective, of such consideration and the amount thereof."

10. 18 U. S. C. §371. Conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud United States.

"If two or more persons conspire either to commit any offense against the United States, or to defraud the United States, or any agency thereof in any manner or for any purpose, and one or more of such persons do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

"If, however, the offense, the commission of which is the object of the conspiracy, is a misdemeanor only, the punishment for such conspiracy shall not exceed the maximum punishment provided for such misdemeanor."

11. Rule 7(c), (d), (e). Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

"(c) Nature and contents. The indictment or the information shall be a plain, concise and definite written statement of the essential facts constituting the offense charged. It shall be signed by the attorney for the government. It need not contain a formal commencement, a formal conclusion or any other matter not necessary to such statement. Allegations made in one count may be incorporated by reference in another count. It may be alleged in a single count that the means by which the defendant committed the offense are unknown or that he committed it by one or more specific means. The indictment or information shall state for each count the official or customary citation of the statute, rule, regulation or other provision of law which the defendant is alleged therein to have violated. Error in the citation or its omission shall not be ground for dismissal of the indictment or information or for reversal of a conviction if the error or omission did not mislead the defendant to his prejudice.

"(d) Surplusage. The court on motion of the defendant may strike surplusage from the indictment or information.

"(e) Amendment of information. The court may permit any information to be amended at any time before verdict or finding if no additional or different offense is charged and if substantial rights of the defendant are not prejudiced."

12. Rule 8(a), (b). Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

"(a) Joinder of offenses. Two or more offenses may be charged in the same indictment or information in a separate count for each offense if the offenses charged, whether felonies or misdemeanors, or both, are of the same or similar character or are based on the same act or transactions or on two or more acts or transactions connected together or constituting parts of a common scheme or plan.

"(b) Joinder of defendants. Two or more defendants may be charged in the same indictment or in-

formation if they are alleged to have participated in the same act or transaction or in the same series of acts or transactions constituting an offense or offenses. Such defendants may be charged in one or more counts together or separately and all of the defendants need not be charged in each count."

13. Rule 13. Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

"The court may order two or more indictments or informations or both to be tried together if the offenses, and the defendants if there is more than one, could have been joined in a single indictment or information. The procedure shall be the same as if the prosecution were under such single indictment or information."

14. Rule 14. Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. (Prior to July 1, 1966, effective date of 1966 Amendment; Grand Jury indictment was returned June 24, 1966).

"If it appears that a defendant or the government is prejudiced by a joinder of offenses or of defendants in an indictment or information or by such joinder for trial together, the court may order an election or separate trials of counts, grant a severance of defendants or provide whatever other relief justice requires."

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioner, Van C. Vollmer and The Indiana Investor and Business News, Inc., of which he was the editor, were indicted for stock fraud under a forty-one (41) count indictment returned June 24, 1966, Count 39 of which charged willful violation of 15 U. S. C. 77q(b). Count 39 also charged Robert S. Chappell, and Investment Corporation of America, with the same overt acts and the entire theory of the indictment and prosecution against petitioner was predicated upon the culpability and guilt of Robert S. Chappell. The publication was, as the name suggests, devoted to news of Indiana business, industry and securities, and both the printing of the publication itself, and the comments and editorials which were printed, were prior to the indictment not criminal

under Indiana law. At no time did petitioner own any stock in any corporation involved or mentioned in any way in the stock fraud indictment, nor did petitioner at any time have any stock, or offer any stock for sale, nor was petitioner at any time mentioned in the indictment involved either as an *issuer*, *underwriter*, or *dealer*.

Robert S. Chappell and Investment Corporation of America were severed from trial and subsequently *discharged* as to all counts of the indictment. Petitioner asked but was denied a severance. Count 41 of the indictment charged a violation of 18 U. S. C. §371, and charged petitioner with participation in a criminal conspiracy. Even though the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit at page 17a-18a of its opinion admitted that petitioner, Vollmer, made no identifiable affirmative misrepresentations, petitioner was nevertheless convicted upon evidence, which although *hearsay* and *inadmissible as to the substantive crimes charged*, was offered, admissible and admitted insofar as it went to prove *conspiracy*.

Once the evidence got in, for whatever purpose admitted, it was in and could not be separated by the jury even though tainted.

Although the jury found all defendants not guilty of conspiracy, it found petitioner guilty of the crimes charged under Count 26 and 39. Petitioner appealed this conviction to the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, who deliberated nearly one year before it affirmed the trial court. Petitioner then timely filed his Petition for Rehearing, which was denied.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Not since the early days of the colonists when John Peter Zenger was placed on trial for what he printed, has a newspaper publisher been prosecuted and placed on trial for what he printed in his newspaper. This incursion into these sanctuaries of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution which has guaranteed petitioner freedom of the press, and which has sheltered every news-gathering

member of the fourth estate for nearly two centuries was deeply penetrated by a coupe de main of the United States government through a resourceful and expanded use of that "darling of the prosecutor" — CONSPIRACY — initiated under the aegis of an officer of the Securities and Exchange Commission *assigned exclusively to get convictions*, which if left unchecked could visit upon the citizens of every state the very fear of a strong federal government feared by the founding fathers in adopting the Bill of Rights. Disagreement in any form can be suppressed by the government by further extension of the law of conspiracy as applied in this case.

During the entire statehood of Indiana, and for more than 151 years, petitioner, his forefathers, descendants, and all other members of the Fourth Estate similarly situate; have enjoyed the precious freedoms conferred and guaranteed to them by the Ist, IXth, Xth, and XIVth Amendments to the United States Constitution to print and publish their newspaper in the State of Indiana, in any way they saw fit, so long as it did not create a clear and present danger to the government.

Prior to this indictment, petitioner, with the help of others, in a free enterprise system, exercised his privileges and printed and published his newspaper. He employed news reporters, gathered his information from whatever source, discussed its contents, talked to anyone he pleased, and printed whatever news, or non-news, he thought fit to print. These freedoms were guaranteed to the State of Indiana as a condition of Statehood by IXth and Xth Amendments to the United States Constitution and were exercised by petitioner upon the premise and belief that so long as he was engaged in a *purely intra-state activity* which although regulated by the federal government since 1933, exempted the activities of petitioner which were exclusively intra-state in nature.

In his pursuit of happiness, petitioner was able to exercise his privilege of printing and publishing his newspaper in the State of Indiana devoted exclusively to commenting on stock issues of Indiana corporations, which were to be sold

only to bona fide residents of the State of Indiana, so as not to become involved with the Federal Government.

Without notice of pre-emption by the Federal Government, without any change by Congress of the Securities law adopted in 1933 and 1934, as they affected petitioner, the rules were redefined by the government behind closed doors in Indianapolis and what was lawful one day, by government decree and arbitrary and capricious fiat was made unlawful, and without any opportunity or notice of such rule change, petitioner was suddenly visited with an indictment charging criminal conspiracy as a participant in a stock fraud case for what he printed, and charged as a co-conspirator with Robert S. Chappell and Investment Corporation of America.

All of the charges contained in the indictment were considered a lawful activity as to petitioner and The Indiana Investor and Business News, Inc., protected by the State of Indiana. Petitioners, Robert S. Chappell and Investment Corporation of America were charged with violating 15 U. S. C. §77q(b) and other federal laws by offering a security for sale without disclosure of the consideration received, directly or indirectly, from an issuer, underwriter and dealer. Robert S. Chappell and Investment Corporation of America were severed and subsequently discharged of all charges as a result of a jury trial. Had their trial occurred *before* petitioner's trial, it would have constituted a defense to petitioner by way of prior adjudication on the merits of a matter involving the same issues, facts and parties arising out of the same transactions.

Petitioner, who requested and was denied severance of trial, thus stands convicted of a felony as the result of the spectre of mass trial which commingled him with others, and will, but for a review of this Court, suffer the loss of his liberty by unlawful confinement in prison for up to three (3) years for participating in a conspiracy which the jury found did not exist, and for selling stock to Janie Stech which the Court of Appeals acknowledged was made with no identifiable affirmative misrepresentation in the conversation about which she testified.

Petitioner's conviction raises constitutional questions, which affect the entire process of law and requires redefinition by this Court if the individual is to be protected from tyranny of government.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons a writ of certiorari should issue to review the judgment and opinion of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

in the

United States Court of Appeals

for the Seventh Circuit

SEPTEMBER TERM, 1969 — JANUARY SESSION 1970

Nos. 17084-087, 17089-095
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,
v.
FRED G. AMICK, et al.,
Defendants-Appellants.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

JANUARY 22, 1971

Before FAIRCHILD, CUMMINGS and KERNER, *Circuit Judges.*

FAIRCHILD, *Circuit Judge.* These are appeals by eleven individuals and two corporations from judgments of conviction of violations of 15 U.S.C. §77q (Section 17 of the Securities Act of 1933, Fraudulent interstate transactions). Eight of the individual appellants and the corporations were convicted by a jury.[1] The other three individual appellants were convicted upon pleas of nolo contendere. Others were named in the indictment, but entered pleas or had separate trials, and are not involved on these appeals.

The charges arose out of sales of the common stock of Air & Space Underwriters, Inc. (ASU). ASU was newly formed and contemplated a business (through a subsidiary) of

[1]Another corporation, convicted by the jury, has not appealed.

manufacturing and selling gyroplanes. A gyroplane is similar to a helicopter in that each has a rotor wing. The gyroplane's rotor, when in flight, is free wheeling and not powered. Forward motion is generated by a propeller. A helicopter's rotor, on the other hand, is powered in flight and has forward motion as a result. ASU took over the development of the gyroplane from Umbaugh Aircraft Corporation pursuant to a plan of reorganization of that company, approved in a Chapter X proceeding by a federal district court in Florida. There is evidence that the gyroplane to be produced could land and take off without a runway, and could carry a passenger in addition to the pilot. It was hoped that it could be produced at a price which would make it feasible for various types of business and personal transportation uses.

ASU stock was sold to investors in Indiana from August 14, 1963 until July, 1965 when the SEC obtained an injunction. The prices paid by investors during this period aggregated $2.1 million. 15 gyroplanes were produced and sold.

It appears, virtually beyond dispute, that during this period the effort to promote sales of ASU stock included general releases and individual communications which contained untrue statements of material facts, omitted material facts necessary to make the statements made not misleading, and included devices to defraud and practices which would operate as a fraud upon the purchaser. The areas of misrepresentation included the price at which the plane could be sold, progress toward production, orders on hand, and the financial history and condition of ASU. The details will not be stated except as required in discussion of particular counts. There was abundant evidence of pattern of conduct, plan, and design from which a jury could find that the false and misleading assertions, to the investing public by way of the media, including the Indiana Investor in particular, and to prospective purchasers by sales literature and individual sales efforts, constituted a scheme to defraud, changing in content from time to time. The ultimate question is whether the appellants were properly found criminally responsible for wilfully having employed such scheme or wilfully having obtained money by means of such misrepresentations.

Appellants challenge the indictment on several grounds, and make other attacks on procedure. Those who stood trial argue that the evidence was insufficient to support the respective guilty verdicts.

1. *The challenge to the array of the grand jury.* All appellants contend that the grand jury which indicted them was unlawfully selected. Appellants who stood trial assert the same defect with respect to the petit jury. The challenge is made to an early step in the system by which most names were selected for the jury list from which the names of veniremen were drawn. Documents were placed before the district court in support of and opposition to the challenge. Most of them were the same as those described and considered by Chief Judge Steckler of the same court in overruling a similar challenge at about the same time.[2]

Appellants rely principally on statements appearing in *Rabinowitz v. United States*[3] although there was no showing in the instant case suggesting the virtual exclusion or gross under-representation on the jury list of any group or class of residents of the district or division.

The names of prospective grand jurors were drawn from among 1,200 names, at least 300 being on the jury list in each of four divisions. The names of prospective petit jurors were drawn from the 300 on the list in the Indianapolis division. The division lists were maintained at 300 by addition from time to time of names of persons who had answered questionnaires and been found qualified and not exempt. Most of the names of the larger number to whom the questionnaires had been sent were supplied by so-called key men who were asked by the clerk and jury commissioner to supply them.

As needed, the clerk and jury commissioner sent a form letter to key men in the counties in the district. According to an affidavit by the clerk, the key men were persons "who were thought to be widely acquainted with persons of diverse

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[2]United States v. Duke (S.D. Ind., 1967) 263 FSupp. 828.

[3](5th Cir., 1966), 366 F2d 34. In a later decision, Mobley v. United States (1967), 379 F2d 768, 773, the fifth circuit stated that in Rabinowitz "we did not thus declare the 'key man' selection system illegal as such."

backgrounds within their own communities, and were most likely to suggest jurors representing a fair cross section of such communities."

The form letter soliciting suggestions was before the court. It stated in part that jurors must be "capable and impartial and . . . selected without regard to race, color, creed, politics or station of life." The recipient was asked "to suggest the names of men and women in your community who, in your judgment, would make qualified jurors." A sheet setting forth 28 U.S.C. §§1861 and 1862, listing qualifications and exemptions, was enclosed and it was said, "In making your suggestions please refer to the statutory requirements set forth on the attached sheet." Apparently about 140 key men had responded to such letters in the course of three years.

In November, 1966 several individuals interviewed 79 key men concerning the type of persons whose names each had suggested and prepared affidavits summarizing the interviews. These affidavits were before Judge Dillin as they had been before Judge Steckler. It seems fair to say in summary that most or all the key men said they had some standard in mind as to who would make a "responsible" juror. Indeed, any form of key man system of suggestion would almost necessarily involve the application of some subjective standard of that type. We do not consider, however, that either constitutional concepts or any statutes applicable in 1966 or 1967 compelled a purely random selection from the whole body of qualified persons in the community.[4]

It appears from the affidavits that several key men acknowledged that they had not suggested names of persons belonging to particular groups or classes. Some of the reasons, *e.g.*, that jury duty would be a hardship on poorly paid workers, that men make better jurors than women, and that young adults are too immature, would tend to establish invalidity if such reason were found to have guided most or a substantial group of key men, but we deem the degree to

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[4]**The indictment and trial preceded enactment of the Jury Selection and Service Act of 1968, 28 U.S.C. §§1861-1871, requiring a system of random selection from among those who vote or register to vote.**

which these reasons operated among the total number interviewed was clearly insubstantial.

The district court, in overruling the challenge, concluded that the key man system was not invalid per se, and that the affidavits neither established exclusion of classes of qualified persons nor made a showing sufficient to require further inquiry. We agree.

2. *Challenges to form and sufficiency of indictment.* The first 38 counts of the indictment charged varying groups of defendants with violations of 15 U.S.C. §77q(a). The outline is similar to the one discussed in *United States v. Birrell.*[5] Count 39 charged appellants Vollmer and Indiana Investor and Business News, Inc. (Indiana Investor) and others with violation of 15 U.S.C. §77q(b) in publicizing ASU stock. Count 40 charged several defendants with violation of 15 U.S.C. 77e(a) (2) by mailing ASU stock without a registration statement being in effect. Count 41 charged all defendants with conspiring to commit the offenses charged in the other counts.

A number of the first 38 counts and count 40 were dismissed on motion of the government or for failure of proof. The jury acquitted various defendants on several counts among the first 38, and acquitted all defendants on count 41. The jury convicted Vollmer and Indiana Investor on count 39 and convicted one or more appellants on each of the remaining first 38 counts.

Each of the first 38 counts charged that several defendants, by the use of the mails in the offer and sale of ASU stock to a particular purchaser, wilfully (1) employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud, (2) obtained money and property by means of untrue statements of material facts and omissions to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, and (3) engaged in transactions, practices, and courses of business which would and did operate as a fraud and deceit upon

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[5](S.D.N.Y., 1967), 226 FSupp. 539.

purchasers, including the purchaser named in the particular count. In each count, also, the date, addressee, and content of a mailed communication were alleged.

Each of the 38 counts contained a detailed description of of the manner in which all defendants allegedy accomplished (1), (2), and (3) above referred to with respect to all purchasers of ASU stock, generally. The largest part of the description set forth the history of ASU, its acquisition of the Umbaugh company, the transactions by which particular defendants became interested as stockholders, directors, officers, or underwriters of ASU, and the amounts of stock sold during particular periods of time by named groups of defendants. At trial, there seems to have been little if any dispute about the background facts so alleged.

Paragraph 2 of this description set forth fourteen statements of fact which were alleged to be false and to have been willfully made as part of the devices, schemes, and artifices to defraud and of the transactions, practices and courses of business operating as fraud. Paragraph 3 set forth ten statements of fact, alleged to have been omitted, but necessary to make the statements made not misleading. Each list was said not to be exclusive.

The detailed description just referred to alleged a course of conduct from May 15, 1963 to the date of the indictment, appeared as part of count 1, and was incorporated by reference in each of the following 37 counts.

Several attacks are made upon the indictment. We find no merit in them, and point them out briefly, as follows:

Vagueness: The indictment dealt with a subject matter sufficiently complex that care is required in reading it, but it is not vague. In each of the first 38 counts several defendants are charged in the terms of the statute with wilfully performing the proscribed acts in the offer and sale of ASU stock to a named purchaser, and the incidental use of the mails is described. As already mentioned, each count contained a general description of the background and a list, though not exclusive, of fraudulent statements and

omissions, alleging conduct continuing generally throughout two years, although the transactions and some of the misrepresentations took place at different times within the two year period. The dates of mailing in all counts fell within that period.

The indictment "contains the elements of the offense intended to be charged, 'and sufficiently apprises the defendant of what he must be prepared to meet, and, in case any other proceedings are taken against him for a similar offense, whether the record shows with accuracy to what extent he may plead a former acquittal or conviction.' "[6]

Incorporation by reference: It happened that count 1, in which the general description of the background and of the fraud was expressly set out, was dismissed for failure of proof. Several appellants contend that dismissal erased the count so that the portion of each other count incorporating part of count 1 by reference incorporated nothing. They claim it follows that without the incorporated part of count 1, all other counts ceased to charge an offense. The latter proposition is not clear but in any event we reject the argument that the counts must be read as if the incorporated material ceased to exist upon dismissal of count 1.

Duplicity: 15 U.S.C. §77q(a) makes it unlawful, in the offer or sale of securities, by the use of the mails, to engage in certain conduct. The proscribed conduct is described as (1), (2) *or* (3).[7] Each count of the first 38 charges that defendants engaged in (1), (2), *and* (3). It is argued that each count charges three distinct offenses.

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[6]Haynes v. United States (1932), 285 U.S. 427, 431.

[7]"77q. Fraudulent interstate transactions.

"(a) It shall be unlawful for any person in the offer or sale of any securities by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by the use of the mails, directly or indirectly —

"(1) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud, or

"(2) to obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, or

"(3) to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser."

An answer was suggested by *Crain v. United States*.[8] There the "statute was directed against certain defined modes for accomplishing a general object, and declaring that the doing of either one of several specified things, each having reference to that object, should be punished. . . . We perceive no sound reason why the doing of the prohibited thing, in each and all of the prohibited modes, may not be charged in one count, so that there may be a verdict of guilty upon proof that the accused had done any one of the things constituting a substantive crime under the statute."

The *Crain* rationale has, correctly, we think, been applied to the offenses now under consideration:

> "The statute thus embraces in the disjunctive three separate and distinct acts as a crime. The indictment charges the three offenses in the language of the statute, but they are charged in the conjunctive. An indictment charging a statutory offense must follow the statute creating it; but where the statute denounces several acts as a crime, they may be charged in one indictment or in a single count if they are connected in the conjunctive. An indictment drawn in that manner is not duplicitous, and it suffices to prove any one or more of the charges. [citing cases.]"[9]

Multiplicity: Appellants argue that the allowable unit of prosecution is participation in the allegedly fraudulent course of conduct, and that any particular use of the mails in connection with any particular sale is only a jurisdictional fact upon the basis of which participation in the overall course of conduct can be federally prosecuted; that the first 38 counts allege no more than one offense.

Courts have differed as to "the allowable unit of prosecution"[10] under this statute.

There is authority for the view (1) that, as is true of mail fraud, each separate use of the mails in the execution of a

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[8](1896), 162 U.S. 625, 636.

[9]Troutman v. United States (10th Cir., 1938), 100 F2d 628, 631-2.

[10]United States v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp. (1952), 344 U.S. 218, 221.

scheme to defraud in the sale of securities constitutes a separate offense;[11] (2) that each separate offer or sale transaction in which the proscribed conduct is employed and the mails used is the allowable unit;[12] (3) that where an indictment charges employment of proscribed conduct in separate transactions as separate counts, the determination whether there was one offense with several victims or a separate offense upon each victim can ordinarily not be made until proof is in;[13] (4) that where an indictment alleges a scheme to defraud and a number of separate mailings and sales in separate counts, but fails to show that the crime charged in any one count differs from that charged in the others, all counts are to be consolidated and all but one dismissed as separate counts.[14]

The counts in this indictment charged not only separate mailings, but separate sales, so that neither (1) nor (2) would require dismissal of any count. Under (3) dismissal before trial would be inappropriate, and the question need be considered only with respect to cumulative penalties on several counts. We consider (3) a sounder view than (4).[15] We hold that the district court properly refused to dismiss or consolidate counts before trial, and shall give further consideration to the matter when we reach the claim that consecutive sentences were inappropriate.

3. Joinder. Various appellants contend that offenses and defendants were improperly joined, and that in any event discretionary severance should have been granted.

Rule 8(a) F.R.Cr.P. allows joinder of two or more offenses in separate counts in one indictment "if the offenses

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[11]Palmer v. United States (10th Cir., 1956), 339 F2d 861, 867, cert. den. 350 U.S. 996.

[12]Sanders v. United States (5th Cir., 1969), 415 F2d 621, 626; United States v. Saporta (E.D.N.Y., 1967), 270 FSupp. 183, 186. In this circuit it has been said that "the government must show some impact of the scheme on the investor and that the mails were used in those instances where the impact occurred." United States v. Schaefer (7th Cir., 1962), 299 F2d 625, 629.

[13]United States v. Birrell (S.D.N.Y., 1967), 266 FSupp. 539, 544.

[14]United States v. Hughes (S.D.N.Y., 1961), 195 FSupp. 795, 798.

[15]Cf. United States v. Universal C.I.T. Credit Corp. (1952), 344 U.S. 218, 224. United States v. Ketchum (2d Cir., 1963), 320 F2d 3, 7.

charged . . . are of the same or similar character or are based on . . . two or more acts or transactions connected together or constituting parts of a common scheme or plan." There can be no question of the propriety of joining the first 38 counts in one indictment. Count 39 charged wilfully, by use of the mails, giving publicity to and describing ASU stock for a consideration received from an issuer, underwriter, and dealer without fully disclosing the receipt and amount of the consideration. Count 40 (later dismissed) charged wilfully causing ASU stock, an unregistered security, to be carried through the mails for sale and delivery. Count 41 (upon which all appellants were acquitted) charged a conspiracy to commit the other offenses. All the substantive offenses were violations of the securities act, involved the same security, and were alleged to have occurred during the duration of the alleged conspiracy. We have no doubt that at the least the acts and transactions upon which all 41 counts were based were "connected together or constituting part of a common scheme or plan." Joinder of the offenses was authorized by the rule.

Rule 8(b) permits joinder of two or more defendants if they are alleged to have participated in the same series of acts or transactions constituting an offense or offenses. All defendants need not be charged in each count. We think the acts and transactions alleged in the first 38 counts, and in counts 39, 40, and 41 may be deemed one series of acts or transactions for the purpose of this rule.

Several appellants contend that they were prejudiced by joint trial and that the district court abused its discretion in denying motions for severance under Rule 14. F.R.Cr.P.

We do not find it so. It is true that the proof was voluminous (4,000 pages of transcript, covering four weeks of trial, and more than 1,000 exhibits, at least marked for identification). Several appellants were securities salesmen, while others occupied positions of greater responsibility and authority. Several appellants were active in sales of ASU stock during periods when other appellants were not. On the other hand, there was also considerable over-

lapping in time. The proof was orderly and as chronological as reasonably possible, and the court gave frequent cautionary instructions. As will be seen when sufficiency of the evidence is discussed, the jury was capable of discernment among counts and among defendants.

We consider the trial fundamentally fair.

During the investigation by the SEC various defendants had given testimony pursuant to administrative subpoenas. Transcripts were received by the court, but were not put before the jury except as excerpts were read. In each case the court instructed the jury that the excerpt was to be considered only against the defendant who made the statement.

Appellant Broderick contends that he was denied the right of confrontation and cross-examination[16] by such reading. He fails to specify the portions of statements of his codefendants which incriminated him. His name was apparently mentioned only in the portion read from appellant Olsen's SEC testimony. Olsen did not testify. These references established Mr. Broderick's presence at several conversations or occasions only generally described, and if they could be deemed incriminating in any sense, they were merely cumulative and the error, if any, harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.

These excerpts were not highly incriminating with respect to the person testifying except as they laid a foundation for an inference that the person knew the state of affairs was different from that which was represented to purchasers. In instructing the jury that these excerpts must be weighed with caution and the circumstances scrutinized to determine whether they were made voluntarily, the court referred to them several times as "statements" and once as "alleged admissions". Several appellants contend that the latter characterization was prejudicial. We do not find it so.

4. Pretrial publicity and voir dire. Certain appellants

[16]Bruton v. United States (1968), 391 U.S. 123.

contend that prejudicial pretrial publicity required the court to dismiss the indictment or postpone the trial. There had been news stories concerning the indictment, about a year before trial. Two days before trial there had been two news stories. One referred to a "stock swindler" and concerned an unrelated indictment. Another reported the nolo contendere pleas of two of appellants' codefendants, and referred to the "gyroplane swindle". Appellants were not named.

The district judge conducted a careful and extensive voir dire. 64 prospective jurors were questioned. Although 40 said they had read or heard something in the media about the case, only two said they had formed opinions which would require evidence to overcome. They were excused. Most of the other 38 could not recall the extent of what they had read or heard and none had formed any opinion. Some recalled very recent news reports stating that the trial was to begin. There was nothing to indicate these had any prejudicial content. 9 of the 38 were selected for the jury. The answers indicated the content of the news stories had made little impression.

Denial of continuance was not an abuse of discretion, and we see no reason to believe the publicity affected the fairness of the trial.

The district judge questioned the prospective jurors, but invited defense counsel to request additional questions, which the judge then asked. Although objections to this method are urged by some of the appellants, it is authorized by Rule 24(a) F.R.Cr.P.[17]

5. *Claim of mistrial because of approach to juror.* Just before the beginning of the trial, Mr. Morrow, a juror who ultimately became foreman, reported an incident to the district judge. A Mr. Rank, a business associate of Morrow, who was president of a bank, had told Morrow of a call Rank received from appellant Vollmer after selection of the jury. According to Rank, Vollmer had once attempted unsuccess-

[17]See cases cited in Hamer v. United States (9th Cir., 1958), 259 F2d 274, 279.

fully to arrange a mortgage for some property that Rank was interested in. Mr. Vollmer asked Rank if Rank thought that Morrow remembered Vollmer and if Morrow's decision as juror would be influenced in any way because Vollmer was unsuccessful in arranging for the mortgage. Morrow told the judge he did not remember Vollmer and had no recollection of the transaction. He said he had not told any other juror of the call and promised not to do so.

The court and counsel discussed the situation. Defense counsel moved for a mistrial, but the court decided to proceed.

Judge Dillin informed the jury substantially as follows: "One of the parties . . . contacted an acquaintance and asked him a question which required the acquaintance to ask a member of the jury for the answer, thus, of course, bringing to the attention of the juror the party who asked the question in the first place. The juror very properly related this to the Clerk, who related it to me, and I have now made it known to the attorneys . . . I think, on thorough reflection, that nothing improper was intended, although, as I say, it was an irregularity on the part of the person who did it . . . I am sure nothing out of the way will happen in the future, but if anything does, please report it promptly."

It is suggested that juror Morrow probably became prejudiced against Vollmer by Vollmer's call and that the other jurors probably became prejudiced against all appellants on trial as a result of being told that an unnamed party had indirectly contacted an unnamed juror. We think the incident is not of sufficient import reasonably to lead to those conclusions.

6. *Sufficiency of the evidence.* The first 38 counts rested upon separate sales and mailings. The mailings were made on dates from October 14, 1963 to June 1, 1965.

The first public offering of ASU stock began August 14, 1963 and was formally terminated June 1, 1964. The price was $4 per share.

The second public offering, at $6 per share began in June, 1964.

An offer at $5 per share was made to existing stockholders October 19, 1964.

The stock was split in December, 1964. Control of ASU changed from appellants Irving and Amick and their associates in January, 1965 to Chappell and his associates. In March, 1965 the SEC began its investigation and in July, 1965, it obtained an injunction against fraudulent sales.

Count 41 charged 23 individual and 6 corporate defendants, including appellants, with conspiring among themselves and with others named. The conspiracy allegedly continued from May 15, 1963 to the date of the indictment in 1966. Concededly many of the defendants did not participate in sales of ASU stock throughout the period, but it was the theory of the government that each was a member of the conspiracy during the period he was involved in the sales effort. The jury, however, acquitted of conspiracy all who stood trial.

We have already referred to the material incorporated in each of the 38 counts, alleging that from May 15, 1963 on, all appellants and others engaged in the conduct proscribed by 15 U.S.C. 77q(a), (1), (2), and (3) in the manner described in detail. Government counsel evidently considered, in drawing the indictment, that each defendant was responsibly associated in the fraudulent conduct throughout that defendants' participation in sales of stock. Again, however, the jury rejected reliance on any assumption of that nature and seems cautiously to have considered each count submitted, one by one.

a. *The case as to Amick.* Mr. Amick and Mr. K. K. Irving had held a dealership under Umbaugh. They were moving forces in the organization of ASU May 15, 1963 and the take-over from Umbaugh, under a plan of reorganization. Amick was secretary-treasurer of ASU and chairman of the board. He was active in management and in the planning and arrangement of the various offerings

of stock. The jury could well have found that the successive offering prices and the stock split were a means of giving a false impression of increasing value. He must surely have known the material facts and responsibly have known of the misrepresentation and omissions in the sales material and the promotional news releases. He resigned as an officer in January, 1965, and as a director shortly thereafter.

Amick was charged in each of the first 38 counts, 26 of them were submitted to the jury. His active central role makes it seem likely that conviction on all counts, at least those which arose before his resignation, might have been sustained. The jury convicted, however, on 8 counts and acquitted on the rest. Chronologically, the dates of the mailings in 6 of the counts on which he was convicted ran from March 4, 1964 to September 1, 1964. The dates of mailing in the two other counts were October 14 and 21, 1964. Amick did not deal in person with these purchasers. But the jury could clearly find that the forbidden fraudulent practices were employed in these sales and that Amick was wilfully responsible for their employment.

Amick was sentenced to four years imprisonment on count 6 (March 4, 1964) and two years on each other count. The two year terms are concurrent with each other, but consecutive to the four year term. The content of the fraud did not remain static. Disclosures concerning some of the adverse history of Umbaugh were omitted from the prospectus for the second offering, although included in the first. The expectation of benefits from an agreement with a Canadian group in August 1964 were grossly overstated. Deceptive photographs were sent to stockholders just before the October, 1964 offer in order to create the impression that regular production had begun. There were other additional misrepresentations from time to time. As previously stated, there are decisions holding that each mailing or each sale is a distinct offense, and it would logically follow that cumulative penalties could be imposed. Even under a different view, however, we think that the scheme to defraud involved in the various counts was

sufficiently different as time went on, and that Amick was sufficiently active in formulating and augmenting the scheme that the use of the scheme in each of the respective counts could fairly be deemed a distinct offense with cumulative penalties, at least to the extent imposed here.

b. *The case as to Broderick.* Broderick was employed as a salesman for Van Horn Associates, dealer or underwriter for the first public offering. In June, 1964, he was employed by ASU as "stock control manager". He revised the prospectus, omitting material facts, and stating untruths with respect to patents and production, and used it in a number of sales.

Broderick was charged in the first 17 counts, the dates of mailing running from October 14, 1963 to September 29, 1964. 10 counts were submitted to the jury. He was convicted on count 17, and acquitted on the others.

Count 17 involved a sale of stock to Rufus S. Gray, and mailing the certificate to him.

Mr. Gray testified that about August 20, 1964, two men called at his office, McQuinn and Broderick. Both discussed ASU stock. He was given the prospectus which Broderick had revised. Gray was unable to say which man made particular statements, but one or the other represented that the company had over a million dollars in backlog orders, which was false, and that the price of the plane would be around $13,900, a matter which was still highly speculative, and that the plane could be flown with three or four hours instruction. The jury could well say that the scheme was employed in the sale.

Whatever the reason the jury acquitted Broderick of other counts, we think it could properly find him guilty on this count. The jury could properly find him responsible for statements even if made by McQuinn since they were made in Broderick's presence and in a joint effort to sell the stock. Broderick's position with ASU was sufficiently responsible to make him chargeable with knowledge of the facts. Wilfullness could be inferred.

c. *The case as to Vollmer and Indiana Investor.* Mr.

Vollmer was editor of the Indiana Investor and Business News, published weekly by defendant corporation of similar name. Indiana Investor was devoted to "News of Indiana Business, Industry, and Securities". The record shows that it was frequently a channel by which misleading information concerning ASU stock reached investors and several purchasers testified that their interest in ASU stock had been generated by reading Indiana Investor. The government contends that almost from the beginning of the fraudulent promotion of ASU stock Vollmer frequently visited the company's facilities and was aware of facts in the light of which the news stories and some of his own editorial comments in Indiana Investor were false or misleading. There is evidence to support this contention.

Vollmer and the publishing corporation were charged in 36 of the first 38 counts, with mailing dates ranging from February 19, 1964 to June 1, 1965. 26 of these counts were submitted to the jury. It convicted Vollmer and the corporation on count 26, and acquitted them on all others. They were also charged and convicted on count 39, a violation of 15 U.S.C. §77q(b).

Count 26 involved a purchaser named Janie Stech, and a mailing to her on January 21, 1965 of a confirmation for 1,000 shares at $6 per share. The sale was made by defendant Dowling, an employee of defendants Mayne and Securities Services, also convicted on that count.

Mrs. Stech testified that she had first become interested in ASU stock as a result of reading in Indiana Investor about the planned stock split. She had then bought 200 shares from Dowling in December, 1964. While considering the purchase of the 1,000 shares solicited by Dowling in January, she went to see Vollmer and asked him about Dowling and the plane. Vollmer spoke favorably of both, but told her he knew where she could get stock for $4 instead of $6. She considered herself committed to Dowling, however, and bought from him. Later another dealer telephoned her and offered stock for $4.

It must be acknowledged that Mr. Vollmer made no identi-

fiable affirmative misrepresentation in the conversation about which Mrs. Stech testified. We think, however, that the evidence tending to show that he knowingly published false or misleading reports and editorial comment concerning ASU, was sufficient, in the light of the circumstances, to find him a wilfull and knowing participant in the fraudulent course of conduct which generated the sales to Mrs. Stech, and, indeed, others.

At about the time of the Stech purchase of 1,000 shares, Vollmer persuaded Van Horn, the president of Commercial Capital, an interested dealer, to send a letter to all Commercial Capital and ASU stockholders recommending that they subscribe to Vollmer's paper. Vollmer prepared the letter, saying that Commercial Capital and ASU planned to use Indiana Investor to keep the Indiana investment community informed on the progress of ASU. The letter was mailed January 25. Very possibly the jury selected this particular count because of the personal appeal of Mrs. Stech to Vollmer for advice and the opportunity that gave him to give her information she needed and because of the proximity in time to the letter of January 25 and the events dealt with in count 39.

Count 39 charged Vollmer and Indiana Investor, and two others not on trial, with wilful violation of 15 U.S.C. §77q(b). The gist of the charge was that they "by the use of the mails, published and . . . circulated . . . newspaper articles . . . which, though not purporting to offer a security for sale, described such security . . . for a consideration received, directly and indirectly, from an issuer, underwriter and dealer without fully disclosing the receipt of such consideration and the amount thereof". The Indiana Investor of January 29, 1965 was alleged to have been mailed on that date.

The January 29 issue reported acquisition of control of ASU by Robert Chappell's company, Investment Corporation of America (ICA) and an investment of "over $2 million", accomplished in major part by the purhase of a block of authorized, but unissued stock. This was itself untrue or, at least, misleading. But the point under count 39 was that

Chappell and Vollmer had discussed the preparation and publication of the story, and at Vollmer's suggestion, Chappell had agreed to buy subscriptions for all stockholders of ICA. The testimony was that this would cost $1,000 or $1,200. On February 1, however, Chappell gave Vollmer an ICA check for $2,500. The January 29 issue of Indiana Investor did not disclose that consideration would be received.

We think the jury could properly find that Vollmer published the article in return for the promise of payment.

Vollmer and Indiana Investor contend that 15 U.S.C. §77q(b), here found to have been violated, abridges freedom of the press, contrary to the first amendment.

The purpose of the statute is clear, and was stated in a committee report at the time of passage of the act as follows:

Section 17(b) "is particularly designed to meet the evils of the 'tipster sheet' as well as articles in newspaper or periodicals that purport to give an unbiased opinion but which opinions in reality are bought and paid for."[18]

The substantial interest of the investing public in knowing whether an apparently objective statement in the press concerning a security is motivated by promise of payment is obvious. We see no significant abridgement of freedom of the press in requiring disclosure of a promise of payment if there has been one.[19]

d. *The case as to Olsen.* Olsen entered the picture when employed by ASU as a stock salesman at the beginning of the second public offering (late June, 1964). In August, 1964, Van Horn, president of Commercial Capital Corporation (formerly Van Horn Associates) agreed to assist ASU and again began to sell stock to the public. Van Horn hired Olsen as a salesman for Commercial Capital, and Olsen later became sales manager.

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[18]Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce H.R. Rep. No. 85, 73d Cong., 1st Sess. (1933) 24.

[19]See Communist Party of the United States v. Subversive Activities Control Board (1961), 367 U.S. 1, 97-102; Lewis Publishing Co. v. Morgan (1913), 229 U.S. 288; United States v. Harris (1954), 347 U.S. 612; Burroughs v. United States (1934), 290 U.S. 534.

Olsen was charged in counts 10 to 38, the mailing dates ranging from July 3, 1964 to June 1, 1965. 23 of these counts were submitted to the jury. It convicted Olsen on counts 18, 23, 24, and 25, acquitting him on the others.

Count 18 involved a purchase of 200 shares by Mr. Perkins in October, 1964 from Commercial Capital. Olsen and Wymer called on him. They told him ASU would be in production at an early date, had about a year's work ahead, and had about a year's parts inventory completed, in the shop and paid for.

Count 23 involved a purchase of 200 shares by Mr. Whitney in December, 1964. Olsen told him the plane would cost $13,500 and that ASU had quite a few back orders.

Count 25 involved a purchase of 1,000 shares by Mr. and Mrs. Rauer in December. The shares were bought from Commercial Capital and the salesman was appellant Wymer. The price per share was $8.75. Wymer told the Rauers the stock would be worth $12 per share by spring and that ASU had enough backlog of orders to last two years at continuous production. The July 9, 1964 prospectus was given the Rauers.

The evidence establishes that at least by the time of these transactions, Olsen knew material adverse facts concerning the financial situation of the company and the lack of production, and should have known of the lack of firm orders for the plane. As sales manager of Commercial Capital he instructed its salesmen at sales meetings. We think that he could properly be convicted on counts 18 and 23 where he personally made false or misleading statements and failed to make necessary additional statements, and on Count 25 where the representations were not personally made by him, but by a salesman whom he instructed, and were consistent with the pattern of fraudulent conduct with which he was responsibly associated. Olsen had recommended Wymer to Van Horn for employment, saying Wymer was a good salesman "but also very fast in the field and should be watched with a very close eye".

Count 24 involved a purchase of 120 shares in December, 1964 from appellant Securities Services. Appellant Dowling was the salesman who dealt with the purchasers. We know of no evidence directly connecting Olsen with this transaction. We do not consider the evidence of his association with ASU or Commercial Capital in fraudulent conduct in the marketing of this stock to be sufficient proof of responsibility for the practices followed by Securities Services, although there is a brief reference to his having conducted one sales meeting for that company in the absence of appellant Mayne. We conclude that this conviction and sentence on this count must be set aside, although concurrent sentences remain in force.

e. *The case as to Wymer.* Wymer became a stock salesman for ASU in July, 1964, and was later employed by Commercial Capital.

Wymer was charged in counts 11 to 38, the mailing dates ranging from July 20, 1964 to June 1, 1965. 22 of these were submitted to the jury. He was convicted on counts 15, 18, and 25, and acquitted on the others.

Count 15 involved mailing by Commercial Capital to Mr. and Mrs. Riley on September 1, 1964 of a confirmation for 100 shares. Wymer had told Riley before he bought that ASU had thousands of orders and that production had just started. These statements were untrue and material, and of a type characteristic of the scheme.

Counts 18 and 25 have been described in d., above.

There is ample evidence that Wymer knew that the representations were untrue and intended that they persuade the prospective purchasers.

Wymer contends that the government failed to prove that the purchasers relied on the untrue statements. It is true that they did not testify that they believed and relied on his assertions.

Courts have said that in prosecutions under 15 U.S.C. §77q(a), at least where a fraudulent scheme was employed,

it is unnecessary to prove that a victim parted with money or property in reliance upon misrepresentations.[20]

Considering the language of the three subdivisions of 77q(a), it is clear that the activity proscribed by subdivisions (1) and (3) need not be successful to be unlawful, and reliance by a victim need not be proved. (1) proscribes the *employment* of a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud. (3) proscribes *engaging* in a transaction, practice, or course of business which *would operate* as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser as well as one which does. (2) deals specifically with untrue and misleading statements, but such statements are often elements or manifestations of a device, scheme, or artifice covered by (1) or of a transaction, practice or course of business covered by (3), so that when conduct unlawful under (1) or (3) has been proved it is not necessary to have proved conduct unlawful under (2). We conclude that proof of any degree of reliance was not required here.

It may be that the making of an untrue or misleading statement in the offer or sale of securities by the use of the mail or interstate telephone call might be so isolated from any other transaction that it would be unreasonable to deem it an element of a scheme or other conduct proscribed by (1) or (3). If so, the statement would not be unlawful under (2) unless it caused someone to part with his money or property. (2) declares it unlawful *to obtain* money or property *by means of* an untrue statement or material omission. Even in that instance, the victim's testimony that he relied would not be essential where causation could be inferred from all the circumstances.[21]

f. *The case as to Mayne.* David Mayne was president of Securities Services, Inc., a broker-dealer. In the fall of 1964 Van Horn discussed ASU stock with Mayne, and

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[20]Farrell v. United States (9th Cir., 1963, 321 F2d 409, 419, cert. den. 375 U.S. 992; Frank v. United States (10th Cir., 1955), 220 F2d 559, 563; Bobbroff v. United States (9th Cir., 1953), 202 F2d 389, 391.

[21]See cases cited, 35 C.J.S., False Pretenses, §52, including People v. Gordon (Calif. C.A., 2d Dist., 1945), 163 P2d 110, 124; State v. Hastings (N.D., 1950), 41 NW2d 305; Corscot v. State (1922), 178 Wis. 661, 671, 178 NW 465.

a while later, Commercial Capital, Van Horn's company, supplied Securities Services with blocks of shares for resale. Securities Services sold stock amounting to more than $38,000 and Mayne himself sold $54,000.

Mayne and Securities Services were charged in counts 22-38, the mailing dates ranging from December 15, 1964 to June 1, 1965. Twelve of these were submitted to the jury. Mayne and his company were convicted on counts 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33, and 34, and acquitted on the others.

Count 24 (already referred to under d.) involved a sale of 120 shares to Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer. The confirmation was mailed December 24, 1964. Mr. Shaffer dealt personally with Dowling, an employee of Securities Services. Dowling told him ASU had three years' back orders. This was untrue and material and a part of the scheme-pattern. Shaffer bought additional shares on later occasions. The jury acquitted Dowling on this count. It may well have given him the benefit of a doubt on the fact that he was relatively new and should not at that stage be held criminally accountable for the fraudulent scheme. An acquittal of Dowling on that basis is not inconsistent with conviction of his employer.

Count 26 (already referred to under c.) involved a sale of 1,000 shares to Mrs. Stech. Confirmation was mailed January 21, 1965. In November Mr. Mayne made an appointment with her over the telephone. Mr. Dowling kept the appointment. Mrs. Stech bought 200 shares in December. Dowling arranged to take her to the Auto Show in Indianapolis in January. The plane was on display there.

The display at the Auto Show was part of a stock sales promotion planned by several appellants. Stock salesmen were active there. Mayne prepared some of the sales literature for use at the Auto Show.

A summary sheet prepared by Mayne represented that the plane was FAA certified; that the selling price was $13,390; that the products of ASU were then being distributed through 150 dealers; that approximately 3,500 planes had been ordered with dealer down payments; that

the backlog represented $47,000,000; and that $3,000 invested in ASU stock at various dates since September, 1963 was then worth $5,400. Each of these statements was untrue, or, at best, misleading unless qualified by additional statements which were omitted. This material was distributed at the show by Securities Services salesmen.

Mrs. Stech testified that Dowling pointed to a paper in the roof of the plane and said it was a certificate, and worth a million dollars. He told her the stock could not go down in price. He later told her he had 1,000 shares reserved for her, and that there was a firm in Canada that would take all they could get of it.

Count 29 involved a sale of 100 shares to Mr. and Mrs. Gilley. The certificate was mailed March 24, 1965. Mr. Gilley dealt personally with Mr. Von Foerster, a defendant not on trial, an employee of Securities Services. Mr. Von Foerster gave him a copy of the summary sheet prepared by Mayne and referred to under count 26, showed him an ASU stock sales booklet used by Mayne and other Securities Services salesmen, containing untrue and misleading statements of material facts, and orally made untrue or misleading statements concerning production plans and the price of the plane.

Count 30 involved a sale of 100 shares to Mr. Sears, with confirmation mailed March 24, 1965. Sears also dealt with Von Foerster and received the same summary sheet and was shown the same sales booklet as Mr. Gilley.

Count 32 involved a sale of 50 shares to Mr. and Mrs. Lang, with confirmation mailed April 5, 1965. Mr. Lang also dealt with Von Foerster, was shown the same sales booklet as Gilley and Sears, and was told untrue information about current production, back orders, and the price of the plane.

Count 33 involved a sale of 300 shares of Securities Services to Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker. The sale and the mailing of the certificate April 13, 1965 were proved. We find no evidence disclosing the information given. Conviction of Mayne and Securities Services on this count could rest only upon

an inference that a scheme to defraud frequently employed by them in the sale of a particular security was employed in every sale at about the same time. We consider this inference, under the circumstances of this case, too weak to constitute proof beyond a reasonable doubt, and conclude that conviction on this count must be set aside. The sentences on other counts, however, are concurrent.

Count 34 involved a sale of 50 shares by Securities Services to Mr. and Mrs. Wininger, with certificate mailed April 16, 1965. Mr. Wininger received the same summary sheet as Gilley and Sears.

Counts 24, 26, 29, 30, and 32 involved sales made by employees of Securities Services, of which Mayne was president. Mayne employed, instructed, and supervised these salesmen. He prepared and provided them with sales material containing untrue and misleading statements. There is, in our judgment, sufficient evidence upon which to find that he knew of the fraudulent character of the scheme which the salesman would employ[22] and intended that the prospective purchasers be persuaded to buy the stock. We conclude that the convictions of Mayne and Securities Services on these counts are adequately supported, and support the respective sentences.

g. *The case as to Dowling.* Dowling was a salesman for Securities Services in late 1964 and early 1965. He later became a salesman for Commercial Capital.

He was charged in counts 22 to 38, the mailing dates ranging from December 15, 1964 to June 1, 1965. Twelve of these were submitted to the jury. He was convicted on count 26 and acquitted on the others. The facts relevant to count 26 have been summarized above, in d. and f. We think the evidence supports the finding that he made the representations knowingly and wilfully.

h. *The case as to Riggs.* Mr. Riggs was manager of a life insurance agency. He became interested in ASU at the

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[22]Mayne was surely in a position where he is deemed to have known that which could have been learned by inquiry reasonably to be expected. See cases cited infra. fn. 23.

Auto Show and approached Olsen about selling stock. They made a deal whereby Riggs and his salesmen would receive $1.50 per share of stock which they sold for Commercial Capital. At the time the price of the stock was $6 and Riggs was to pay $4.50.

Riggs was charged in counts 27 to 38, with mailing dates from February 8 to June 1, 1965. Seven of these counts were submitted to the jury. Riggs was convicted on count 38 and acquitted on other counts.

Count 38 involved a sale of 137 shares to Dr. Briggs. The confirmation was mailed June 1.

Dr. Briggs was a medical examiner for the life insurance company. He was first approached by James Dillon, one of Riggs' agents. Dillon said ASU stock was a good buy, and he showed pictures of the plane. Dr. Briggs telephoned Riggs to inquire about the stock. Riggs said it was scarce, was a good buy at $7 and would go up to $10 in a short time. He said about fifteen planes per month were being produced. This was untrue, as well as the representation that the stock was scarce. Briggs bought at $7. A week later he decided to buy more and found he could buy 625 shares through a local bank at $5.62½. Riggs could give no satisfactory answer when told of this. At about the same time as his sale to Briggs, or shortly before, Riggs had been buying ASU stock from a disinterested dealer at about $4.50 per share and selling it to investors at about $6.60 per share. Riggs had visited the plant and was aware that ceritification of the plane had been held up. Although there is no direct evidence that he was informed of the truth as to lack of production, he admitted that he did not know how many planes were being produced because "I heard all kinds of figures". We think that the jury's findings of wilfulness in misrepresenting production can properly rest upon the proposition that he recklessly made the representation for the purpose of inducing a purchase when he must have had

serious question what the facts were, but had failed to use reasonable means at hand to learn them.[23]

7. *Alleged bias of judge.* Appellants Vollmer and Indiana Investor suggest that the district judge ought to have recused himself, and that certain colloquies between the judge and their counsel deprecated counsel so as to diminish his effectiveness before the jury.

These appellants sought a change of venue, with an affidavit asserting that Judge Dillin had issued a preliminary injunction July 12, 1965 in a civil action brought by the SEC, alleging substantially the same facts as the indictment, and quoting Judge Dillin's oral findings adverse to these appellants. Judge Dillin found the application for change of venue insufficient and denied it.

Rulings and findings made by a judge in the course of a judicial proceeding are not in themselves sufficient reasons to believe that the judge has a personal bias or prejudice for or against a party.[24] The affidavit was insufficient to oust Judge Dillin under 28 U.S.C. §144.

These appellants set forth nine short excerpts from the record. Most were critical of some aspect of trial procedure being employed by counsel and some directed him to cease. Most of the admonitions seem to us to have been merited and appropriate in substance. We are not persuaded that they communicated to the jury any view held by the judge on the merits of the case nor that they in any way deprived these appellants of a fair trial.

8. *Challenge to SEC subpoenas.* Certain corporate records of Indiana Investor were used against it and against Vollmer. The government had obtained these records by an SEC subpoena issued pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §77s(b) and enforced by the district court, pursuant to §77v(b).

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[23]See United States v. Ross (2d Cir., 1963), 321 F2d 61, 65, cert. den. 375 U.S. 894; Irwin v. United States (9th Cir., 1964), 338 F2d 770, 774, cert. den. 381 U.S. 911; United States v. Schaefer (7th Cir., 1962), 299 F2d 625, 629; United States v. Vasen (7th Cir., 1955), 222 F2d 3, 8, cert. den. 350 U.S. 834.

[24]Ex parte American Steel Barrel Co. and Seaman (1913), 230 U.S. 35, 43; Tucker v. Kerner (7th Cir., 1950), 186 F2d 79, 84.

Appellants Vollmer and Indiana Investor claim that the judicial compulsion exercised was an unreasonable seizure under the Fourth Amendment. No claim is made that the records were other than corporate.

It may well be that any challenge now made became foreclosed by the adverse result of the judicial proceeding which resulted in enforcement of the subpoena. In any event, the subpoena was not the general subpoena dealt with in *Hale v. Henkel*[25] upon which appellants rely. The answer to their claim is summarized in *Oklahoma Press Pub. Co. v. Walling* as follows:

> "[T]he Fifth Amendment affords no protection by virtue of the self-incrimination provision, whether for the corporation or for its officers; and the Fourth, if applicable, at the most guards against abuse only by way of too much indefiniteness or breadth in the things required to be 'particularly described,' if also the inquiry is one the demanding agency is authorized by law to make and the materials specified are relevant. The gist of the protection is in the requirement, expressed in terms, that the disclosure sought shall not be unreasonable."[26]

9. *Other claims of error upon trial.* We have examined other claims of error in rulings and instructions, but find no merit in any.

10. *Irving's claims.* Appellant K. K. Irving was president of ASU and active in its organization and management. He was charged in all counts except count 39. On June 1, 1967, just before the trial, and when accompanied by his counsel, he entered a plea of *nolo contendere* to 21 counts. After the trial, on July 28, 1967, at the same time others were sentenced, the court found him guilty on counts 10, 12, 14, 19, 20, and 21. He was sentenced to five years on count 10, and two years on each other count. The

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[25](1906), 201 U.S. 43, 77.

[26](1946), 327 U.S. 186, 208. See Penfield Co. of Cal. v. Securities and Exch. Com'n (9th Cir., 1944), 143 Fld 746.

term on count 12 was consecutive to that on count 10, and all other terms were concurrent with that on count 12.

Mr. Irving raises challenges, as do other appellants, to the grand jury, the indictment, refusal of severance and denial of continuance on account of pretrial publicity. Apparently he considers that his plea does not foreclose the latter contentions on the theory that immediate joint trial subjected him to pressures which made his plea involuntary. As already set forth, we deem all these claims insufficient.

Mr. Irving also challenges the propriety of the sentences on several other grounds, which we now consider.

Irving claims that the court improperly considered the evidence heard at trial. Under the circumstances, where the plea was entered the morning the trial was to begin, and further consideration of the plea was postponed, it would seem very likely that the court would consider the evidence at trial to the extent it bore upon the charges to which Irving had pleaded *nolo contendere*. It is clear the court did consider the evidence at the criminal trial in determining that there was a prima facie showing that the offenses charged had been committed. Irving appears to claim, however, that a colloquy just after the plea was entered included an understanding that the court was limited to evidence it recalled from the earlier civil litigation and to Irving's own testimony in the SEC investigation. Although those sources were mentioned as appropriate for consideration by the court in making findings of guilt, we can find no limitation to them or exclusion of evidence at trial, express or implied. Indeed counsel for Irving said, in the course of the colloquy: ". . . my understanding was that . . . and I indicated to Mr. Stein [the United States attorney] that the evidence that the Court would hear in the pending case . . . it was my understanding with Mr. Stein that that could be used for the purposes that were indicated."

The second claim is that assertions made by the court at the hearing prior to the pronouncement of sentence

showed that the court relied on erroneous information. The colloquy between the court and Mr. Irving after counsel had spoken amounts to fifteen pages of transcript. The court outlined several adverse factors: That Irving and others had committed a deliberate fraud on the reorganization court in Florida; that Irving had misrepresented in that court his ability and willingness to commit a million dollars worth of assets to ASU if necessary; had misrepresented that no public offering of stock was contemplated in the near future; and had joined in an improper agreement to give Mr. Umbaugh an interest in ASU.

Three of the allegedly erroneous accusations relate to the above matters. The differences between Irving and the court in these respects are matters of interpretation of and choice of inferences from facts which were thoroughly established.

The court also stated that although Irving claimed to have lost $200,000 in ASU, figures worked out at the court's request, apparently by the government, indicated he came out a little better than even.

Mr. Irving was given an opportunity to respond to all the court's assertions and he succeeded in convincing the court that the computations were in error and that he had suffered a loss exceeding $150,000. The error was acknowledged by the court before sentence was pronounced.

The third claim is that the seven year total sentence is substantially longer than those imposed in a number of reported cases. The government counters with citations of securities fraud cases where the terms were longer than seven years. Disparity in sentences is not a predicate for appellate review.

11. *McQuinn's claims.* Mr. McQuinn was a stock salesman employed by ASU in the summer of 1964. He was charged in counts 7 to 17, with mailing dates from April 8, 1964 to September 29, 1964. He entered a plea of *nolo contendere* to eleven counts and was found guilty on counts 16 and 17.

He raises only challenges which have already been disposed of.

12. *Nash's claims.* Mr. Nash was sales manager for ASU and had previously been employed by Umbaugh. He was charged in every count except count 39. On June 1, 1967 (at the same time as Irving) he pleaded *nolo contendere* to 21 counts. On July 28, the court found him guilty on counts 10, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 21, and sentenced him to concurrent terms, the longest being five years on count 10. Nash appeared without counsel on June 1 and July 28. In August, counsel filed a motion on his behalf to set aside the conviction and for leave to withdraw the plea. The court set aside the conviction and sentences, apparently because the record did not affirmatively indicate waiver of counsel on July 28, but denied leave to withdraw the plea. On October 26, the court found Nash guilty on counts 10, 14, 19, 20, and 21 and sentenced him to concurrent terms, the longest being four years on count 10. All other counts were dismissed or findings of acquittal made.

Mr. Nash makes contentions similar to some of those made by Mr. Irving and other appellants and already disposed of. In addition he contends in his brief on appeal that the district court "committed error in holding that [he] waived the right to counsel at the time he entered his plea of *nolo contendere*". He also asserts that when his conviction was set aside he gained the right to liberality in considering his request for leave to withdraw his plea. We do not find the latter argument very persuasive where the conviction was set aside, as here, on grounds arising after the plea. We observe, also, that Nash is not justly entitled, unless there be good reason, to put the government to a long and repetitious trial which would not have been necessary if Nash had maintained his plea of not guilty and stood trial as scheduled.

We conclude that there was a sufficient waiver of counsel at the time the plea was entered. The facts are, in substance, as follows:

Mr. Van Orman, who is Nash's counsel on this appeal,

filed an appearance as counsel for Nash in the district court July 22, 1966, and continued to represent him until April 14, 1967 when the court permitted Van Orman to withdraw. Van Orman had made motions on behalf of Nash and had appeared April 3 at a pretrial conference. The trial date of May 31 (later postponed one day) was then set. Nash appeared May 29 and requested a continuance in order to seek counsel. The continuance was denied. He appeared May 31 and June 1 without counsel.

On the morning of June 1, Nash, Irving, and Mr. Kightlinger, Irving's counsel, were before the court. Mr. Kightlinger stated that he had explained the plea about to be entered to his client and that since Nash was not represented, he had, upon request by Nash, "given him advice as to the effect of the plea which he desires to make". After asking and obtaining Nash's permission, Kightlinger said he was entering *nolo contendere* pleas for both. The court then carefully and precisely explained the meaning, effect and consequences of a *nolo contendere* plea. It has not been claimed, nor could it be, that there was any deficiency in compliance with Rule 11, F.R.Cr.P.

After full explanation, the court said: "Now, Mr. Nash is not represented by counsel this morning, but in the past he at one time had counsel. Counsel withdrew his appearance, stating at that time that Mr. Nash was financially able to hire counsel but had not completed his arrangements with counsel. Mr. Nash has never indicated to the Court that he is not financially able to hire counsel. He has appeared here as his own counsel on one or two occasions, the last being yesterday morning, so counsel has not been appointed for Mr. Nash. It has been my finding or opinion, as things have gone, that he has elected to represent himself. Is that right, Mr. Nash?" Mr. Nash replied, "Yes, Your Honor."

The court then inquired as to their pleas. Each pleaded *nolo contendere*. The court accepted the pleas, but stated he would make no finding until he heard something to prove the corpus delicti. The discussion concerning the source of proof, already referred to, followed.

There would be a serious problem if this were a typical arraignment and the court said no more about the availability and usefulness of counsel. But here we think the court could rely upon the earlier proceedings, and that Nash's reply, in these circumstances, was a sufficient waiver of counsel.

Our conclusion is strengthened by the fact that the motion, prepared and filed by Nash's counsel in August, neither claims any lack of understanding about the nature of the charge or the consequences of the plea nor that he did not intelligently waive counsel.

We think that Nash has failed to show that withdrawal of the plea is necessary to correct manifest injustice, and that there was no unfairness or abuse of discretion in denying such leave.

The convictions and sentences of appellant Olsen on count 24, and of appellants Mayne and Securities Services on count 33 are set aside. In all other respects the judgments appealed from are affirmed.

A true Copy:

Teste:

Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

United States Court of Appeals

For The Seventh Circuit

Chicago, Illinois 60604

Monday, MARCH 29, 1971

Before

Hon. THOMAS E. FAIRCHILD, Circuit Judge

Hon. WALTER J. CUMMINGS, Circuit Judge

Hon. OTTO KERNER, Circuit Judge

United States Of America,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

Nos. 17084, 17085, 17086, 17091, 17092, 17094, 17095. *vs.*

FRED G. AMICK, *et al.*,
Defendants-Appellants.

Appeals from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division.

IT IS ORDERED by the Court that the petitions for rehearing filed by defendants-appellants Fred G. Amick, Francis L. Broderick, William M. Dowling, H. R. Nash, Walter C. Olsen, Harold L. Wymer, Van C. Vollmer, and Indiana Investor and Business News, Inc., be and the same are hereby denied.

APPENDIX B

United States Court of Appeals

For The Seventh Circuit

Chicago, Illinois 60604

Thursday, APRIL 8, 1971

Before

Hon. THOMAS E. FAIRCHILD, Circuit Judge

Hon. WALTER J. CUMMINGS, Circuit Judge

Hon. OTTO KERNER, Circuit Judge

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

Nos. 17084, 17086, 17089, 17092, 17093, 17094, 17095. vs.

FRED G. AMICK, *et al.*,
Defendants- Appellants.

Appeals from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division.

On consideration of the separate petitions for stay of mandate filed by Fred G. Amick, William Dowling, David R. Mayne, Walter Olsen, Leon O. Riggs, Harold Wymer, and Van C. Vollmer and Indiana Investor and Business News, filed in the above-entitled cause,

IT IS ORDERED that the mandates as to said defendants-appellants be and the same are hereby stayed for a period of thirty (30) days in accordance with the provisions of Rule 41 (b) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned being first duly sworn upon his oath hereby certifies that prior to the filing of Petition For Certiorari in forty (40) copies of Petitioner, Van C. Vollmer with the Clerk of the United States Supreme Court, he forwarded two (2) copies thereof to each counsel of record for plaintiff-appellees, respectively, in the United States Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, by first class postage prepaid United States mail, to-wit:

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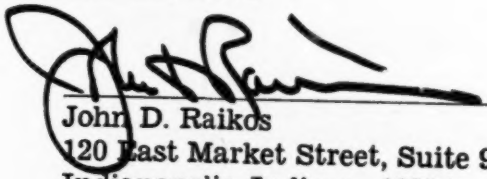

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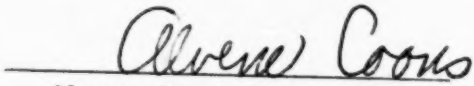
Attorney for Petitioner,
Van C. Vollmer
And Indiana Investor and Business News, Inc.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of May, 1971.

My Commission expires:
November 12, 1974



Alvene Coons, Notary Public

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1970

No. 1678

VAN C. VOLLMER and THE INDIANA INVESTOR AND BUSINESS NEWS, INC., PETITIONERS

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

The judgment of the court of appeals was entered on January 22, 1971.[1] A petition for rehearing was denied on March 29, 1971. The petition for a writ

[1] Petitioners were co-defendants in the trial of the petitioners in Nos. 1617, 1635, 1637 and 6964, this Term. See our consolidated brief in opposition in those cases and our brief in opposition in *Irving* v. *United States*, No. 1375, this Term. "App." references herein refer to the Appendix we will lodge with the Clerk in Nos. 1617, 1635, 1637 and 6964.

of certiorari was not filed until May 6, 1971, and is thus out of time under Rule 22(2) of the Rules of this Court. In any event, there is no reason for plenary review.

Petitioners were the editor and the corporate owner of a financial newspaper. They were convicted of one violation of subsection (a) and one violation of subsection (b) of Section 17 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77q(a) and (b), set out at pp. 5-6 of the petition). Concurrent sentences of three years' imprisonment were imposed on petitioner Vollmer (App. 318-319). The corporate petitioner was fined a total of $10,000, $5,000 on each count (App. 319-320). The court of appeals affirmed (Pet. 1a-33a).

The relevant evidence is summarized in the opinion below (Pet. 16a-19a). In general it tended to show that Vollmer, as editor of Indiana Investor and Business News, knowingly published false or misleading reports and editorial comment concerning the stock of Air and Space Underwriters, Inc. (ASU).

The evidence supporting the conviction under subsection (a) showed that an investor, Mrs. Stech, read about ASU in the Indiana Investor and then obtained Vollmer's advice, after which she made a purchase. While the court below recognized that Vollmer had "made no identifiable affirmative misrepresentation" in his conversation with Mrs. Stech, it determined that the evidence tending to show that Vollmer had knowingly published misleading reports and comment was sufficient in the light of the circumstances to support the jury's conclusion that he was a willful "participant in the fraudulent course of conduct

which generated the sales to Mrs. Stech, and, indeed, others" (Pet. 17a-18a). There is no occasion to review that factual determination.

2. As to the count under subsection (b), the evidence showed that one Robert Chappell, after discussing with Vollmer a story about the acquisition by Chappell's company (Investment Corporation of America) of ASU, agreed to buy subscriptions of Indiana Investor for all stockholders of that company. While such subscriptions would normally cost $1,000 to $1,200, Chappell paid Vollmer $2,500 (Pet. 18a-19a). The newspaper published the story about the acquisition—which was in itself misleading—without disclosing that consideration had been received therefor as required by 15 U.S.C. 77q(b).

Petitioners argue that any limitation on their right to print information regarding the stocks was an abridgment of their First Amendment rights. Subsection (b), however, does not limit petitioners in their expression of opinion or statement of fact. It requires only that the publisher fully disclose any consideration received or to be received in return for the opinion given or purported facts stated as to a security. In the language of the House Report, quoted in the court of appeals opinion (Pet. 19a), Section 17(b) "is particularly designed to meet the evils of the 'tipster sheet' as well as articles in newspaper[s] or periodicals that purport to give an unbiased opinion but which opinions in reality are bought and paid for." As the court below pointed out, the investing public has a substantial interest in knowing whether an apparently objective statement

in the press concerning a security is motivated by promise of payment (Pet. 19a). There is no First Amendment right against full disclosure in such circumstances (cf. *Talley* v. *California*, 362 U.S. 60, 63). And certainly freedom of the press is not abridged when a newspaper owner is subject to criminal punishment for deliberately publishing false reports to aid the fraudulent sale of stock. *Curtis Publishing Co.* v. *Butts*, 388 U.S. 130, 150 (opinion of Mr. Justice Harlan).

3. The contention that the acquittal of Chappell in another trial required reversal of petitioners' convictions is without substance. The evidence indicated Vollmer's connection with ASU almost from the beginning of the fraudulent promotion of that company's stock and he was aware that the stories and comments published in Indiana Investor were false; Chappell and his company did not come into the picture until 1965.[2] There was thus ample reason to sever the case as to Chappell and not as to these petitioners. The fact that another jury acquitted Chappell does not undermine petitioners' conviction here. Cf. *Dunn* v. *United States*, 284 U.S. 390.

It is respectfully submtited that the petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

ERWIN N. GRISWOLD,
Solicitor General.

JUNE 1971.

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[2] There was evidence at the trial that, after acquiring control of ASU, Chappell at a dinner for Securities Services stated that ASU had a number of problems. The story in the Indiana Investor did not disclose any of the adverse comments.

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No. 1678

IN THE

Supreme Court of The United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1970

VAN C. VOLLMER, and THE INDIANA INVESTOR AND BUSINESS NEWS, INC., *Petitioners*,

V.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

REPLY TO THE OPPOSITION MEMORANDUM OF THE UNITED STATES

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IN THE

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VAN C. VOLLMER and THE INDIANA INVESTOR AND BUSINESS NEWS, INC., *Petitioners*,

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ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

REPLY TO THE OPPOSITION MEMORANDUM OF THE UNITED STATES

---

1. The contention of the Government that petitioner Vollmer *knowingly* published false and misleading reports and editorial comments and failed to disclose receipt of consideration, will not find support in the record.

Neither the argument of the Solicitor General, nor obiter dicta of the Court of Appeals may be substituted for *evidence* of guilty knowledge on the part of Vollmer. Furthermore, the petitioner Vollmer received no consideration whatever. The cancelled checks show on their face that payment was made to the *corporate* petitioner, not the petitioner Vollmer. No part of the money paid to the corporate peti-

tioner found its way directly, or indirectly, to Vollmer. Mr. Gilbert VanHorn, defendant, and witness for the Government so testified. (Tr. Vol. V. pp. 869-870):

"920 Q. At the back of this, is there an endorsement as to where that money went?

A. Yes. It was deposited by the Indiana Investor to American Fletcher Bank.

921 Q. Indiana Investor, Inc. It wasn't deposited by Mr. Vollmer?

A. No. No, it was deposited by the Indiana Investor."

The Solicitor General urges that the subscription cost of approximately $1,000.00 to $1,200.00 relied upon by The Court of Appeals at pp. 18a-19a of its opinion was established by argument of Government counsel and not the evidence, whose argument *overstated* the Government's case and proved by *argument* what could not possibly be proved by *evidence.* Such argument would now deprive petitioner Vollmer up to three (3) years of his life for a crime he did not commit. Although the evidence *did show,* as contended by the Solicitor General and relied upon by the Court of Appeals, that of the $2,500.00 paid by Robert Chappell, the sum of $1,000.00 to $1,200.00 was for the *cost of subscriptions,* this premise of itself does not support the conclusion by the Solicitor General or the Court of Appeals that petitioner Vollmer *profited* by the difference. While $1,200.00 was paid for subscriptions, such did not include the *cost of handling and postage* for a *"special mailing"* which the *uncontroverted* evidence showed consumed all of the money received by the corporate petitioner. The entire amount of $2,500.00 was in consideration for and payment for subscriptions, mailing and special handling. There was no consideration paid or received for the publication of any article.

The Solicitor General argues that petitioner Vollmer's conviction is supported under 15 U. S. C. q (a), but fails to show what *evidence,* and there was none, which can be relied upon as proof of the essential elements of the crime not only that Vollmer *knew* that the stories and comments were

false and misleading, but in addition that he *knowingly* published the same.

Dunn v. *United States,* 284 US 390, cited by the Solicitor General is inapplicable since the indictment here was challenged in the court below for multiciplicity in charging scheme *and* conspiracy. In this cause all of the essential elements of the conspiracy were included in the substantive crimes. An acquittal of the charge of conspiracy will not support a judgment of guilt on the charge of a scheme by the same person. The scheme count and the conspiracy count were identical. The conspiracy count of the indictment, Count 41, alleged the identical overt acts which were alleged in the substantive counts and there is nothing in the substantive counts that is not included in the conspiracy count, or vice versa.

2. Unlike *Curtis Publishing Company* v. *Butts,* 388 US 130, rules of law affecting private litigants in a tort action for damages cannot be applied in a criminal prosecution. The standard of care in tort cases as decided by *Butts* may involve reckless disregard and negligence for the truth by a *preponderance* of the evidence which may not be equated to the due process requirements of "reasonable doubt" and criminal "mens rea," necessary to deprive petitioner Vollmer of his liberty.

The Government's evidence by Mr. VanHorn established that petitioner Vollmer was publishing a newspaper in an intra-state environment. (Tr. Vol. V, p. 872):

> "929 Q. . . . you were asked if you knew how Mr. Vollmer got his information. I will ask you if it isn't a fact that you said: "He buzzes for news all the time, everybody, I think, and goes around to all the different plants and businesses in Indiana and so forth, and just compiles it that way." Was that your testimony?
>
> A. I believe it is."

and the material was obtained from many sources. (Tr. Vol. V. p. 874):

"938 Q. Where did he get the material that he published? Did he make it up?

A. He would have gotten, I would imagine, part of it from myself, part of it from Mr. Olsen, part of it from Mr. Mayne, part of it from Air & Space.

939 Q. And, then, he would write it in the form of a newspaper report?

A. Right."

and that the corporate petitioner was publishing a newspaper. (Tr. Vol. V. pp. 864, 865):

"892 Q. . . . Now, is it your testimony that he wrote stories himself, or that he had an editorial staff or that he was running a newspaper? What did you intend to convey?

A. Well, I intended to convey that he run a newspaper, and I think most of the editorials and most of the news service, I believe, was written by Mr. Vollmer."

* * *

"898 Q. Were you also aware that there was an editorial staff in connection with the paper? . . .

A. Yes, I believe he had a staff.

* * *

899 A. I don't rightly know — three or four."

The quid pro quo to the corporate petitioner, if any, was the *obtaining of subscriptions,* not the contents of the articles.

Mr. VanHorn so testified. (Tr. Vol. V, p. 833):

"772 A. . . . So I asked him what favor — if it was something I could do, I would. And he said he needed subscriptions to his newspaper and one way he thought he could increase his circulation was that if I would allow him to write a letter — if I would approve it, and that he would send out to the shareholders of Air & Space and Commercial Capital, asking for subscriptions to his newspaper. I saw nothing wrong with it. I talked it over with Mr. Olsen; he saw nothing wrong with it. We gave him our okay."

Talley v. *California* dealt with the obligations of the State of California under the Fourteenth Amendment *to prevent frauds* by ways *other than* abridging freedom of speech and press. The Fifth Amendment guarantees petitioner Vollmer the right to pursue a legitimate business and to express his views in an orderly fashion without fear of being prosecuted for what he prints and without fear that the elusive tests of the tort law may, as the Government here contends, can be applied to make conduct criminal *without notice.*

3. There is no reason either in fact or in law to sever the case as to Chappell but deny the same right to petitioner Vollmer. Both Chappell and Vollmer were named in identical counts for identical acts under the same indictment. Count 39 charged only Chappell and Vollmer, as individuals, with an offense without disclosing who was being charged as *principal* and who was being charged as *aider* and *abettor.* The overruling of Vollmer's motion for severance, determined as a matter of law by the court that each was *as one* culpable, and the subsequent acquittal of Chappell without now discharging Vollmer amounts to a denial of the fundamental fairness imbodied in due process guaranteed him under the Fifth Amendment. The Government doesn't urge its initial contention with respect to the timely filing under Rule 22 (2) of the Rules of this Court inasmuch as the greater portion of the Solicitor General's argument goes to substance rather that Procedure, nevertheless, the Petition was timely filed in accordance with the rules of the Court of Appeals of the 7th Circuit.

The United States, in its opposing memorandum completely ignores the basis for the holding of this Court in Re *Winship*, 397 US 358, 375. This is evident from the following portions of the Court's opinion, 397 US, at p. 375:

> "Moreover, use of the reasonable-doubt standard is indispensable to command the respect and confidence of the community in applications of the criminal law. It is critical that the moral force of the criminal law not be diluted by a standard of proof that leaves people in doubt whether innocent men are being condemned. It is also important in our free society that every individual going about his ordinary affairs have confidence that his government cannot adjudge him guilty of a criminal offense without convincing a proper factfinder of his guilt with utmost certainty.
>
> '[7] Lest there remain any doubt about the constitutional stature of the reasonable-doubt standard, we explicity hold that the Due Process Clause protects the accused against conviction except upon proof beyond a reasonable doubt of every fact necessary to constitute the crime with which he is charged."

while the Government's Memorandum in Opposition, at page 2-3 states:

> "The evidence supporting the conviction under subsection (a) showed that an investor, Mrs. Stech, read about ASU in the Indiana Investor and then obtained Vollmer's advice, after which she made a purchase. While the court below recognized that Vollmer had "made no identifiable affirmative misrepresentation" in his conversation with Mrs. Stech, it determined that the evidence tending to show that Vollmer had knowingly published misleading reports and comments was sufficient in the light of the circumstances to support

> the jury's conclusion that he was a willful "participant in the fraudulent course of conduct which generated the sales to Mrs. Stech, and, indeed, others" . . ."

In light of the inability of the Government to face the issues presented by petitioner Vollmer without grossly distorting the *Winship* decision, the need for plenary review of the action below is undisputable; indeed summary reversal is in order.

Respectfully submitted,

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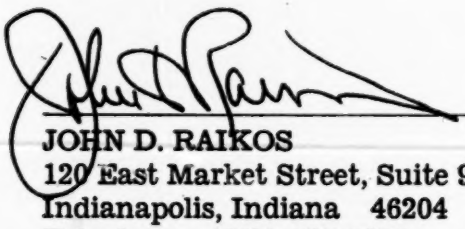
PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned being first duly sworn upon his oath hereby certifies that prior to the filing of the Reply to the Opposition Memorandum of the United States in forty (40) copies of Petitioner, Van C. Vollmer with the Clerk of the United States Supreme Court, he forwarded five (5) copies thereof, by first class postage prepaid, United States mail, to wit:

Solicitor General,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C. 20530



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Attorney for Petitioner,
Van C. Vollmer and
The Indiana Investor and Business News, Inc.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of June, 1971.

Alvene Coons

Alvene Coons, Notary Public

My commission expires:

November 12, 1974